

## Interview Guide for the Biographical Sketch (a short narrative)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Brainstorm** a story you are willing to share with the class. This is a story that you will tell to a classmate. Your classmate will write the story and share it with you for your consent before sharing it with the class.

To begin, look at these options, and write notes of ideas you have for each option. If you do not have a story for the topic, leave it blank. A story means you can recall A SPECIFIC MOMENT OR DAY when you experience this or did this. **For example**, my favorite hiding place is in the closet of my bedroom, but I don't have a vivid memory of hiding there. However, I do have a vivid memory of my first funeral. I was 11 years old. I recall the moment I say my cousin Ray in his coffin; he was only 13 and had just died of Leukemia after a few years of fighting for his life. I can tell that story with detail.

	A. an unusual or memorable place you have lived	B. a snapshot memory of your mother or father from when you were little	C. a favorite hiding place	D. a childhood injury or illness
	E. most beloved toy	F. most beloved gift	G. a best sleepover moment	H. how you got your nickname
	I. a moment you wish you could return to as a child	J. the most memorable thing you got in the mail	K. the first time you tried a hobby, sport, food	L. a lesson you learned the hard way
	M. a time you realized you were different or special	N. a story about your race or culture when you were proud or treated with prejudice	O. your first funeral	P. your first time spending your own money
	Q. the best advice you've ever gotten	R. when someone made a difference in your life	S. an embarrassing moment or a time you go into trouble	T. a favorite family meal or holiday

When I meet my partner, I think I will want to tell the story about

## The Interview

In this part, you will interview your assigned partner. Only you should have your chromebook open for this, but please practice

- **Collegiality:** eye contact, respect (it's their story and it's your privilege to tell it), professionalism (on task, focused); work together to achieve success with this project
- **Questioning:** pose questions to elicit elaboration: tell me about...why was that important do you think....how did you feel...; respond kindly and with compassion if the details are sad or surprising: I am sorry to hear your cousin died....I am so sorry that you were bullied; that must have been hard.

<i>My name is</i>	
<i>I am interviewing</i>	

Question (Q): Today, I am going to ask you some questions about a childhood memory. What topic seems like something you can talk about, that you want to share, and that you can give me enough details about to write a story?

Response:

Q: Tell me about \_\_\_\_\_. Start from the beginning?

Response:

### Possible follow-up questions if not gathered from the telling.

Q: Okay, great. So about how old you were at the time?

Response:

Q: When or what time of year was it? Can you describe the weather or kind of day it was?

Response:

Q: What time of day was it? Was this a typical day?

Response:

Q: Where was this? (Try to get at the state, the city, the town, the place like a house, a park, store, school.)

Response

Q: Can you give me some sensory details for the place?

Colors, objects, textures	Smells: What smells do you recall?	Sounds: What were some of the sounds?	Tastes: What were the flavors?	Feelings. How did you feel?

Q: Who was there with you (describe appearance, personality, age, relationship, how they helped/interfered)?

Name	Age	Appearance	personality	How they talk/what they said	How they helped/interfered

Q: And how did you respond to what happened or this experience? What did you say?

Response:

Q: What did you learn from this experience? How has it changed you? What does it mean for who you are today? Why do you think it has stayed with you? Looking back at it, have you realized something different?

Response:

Q: What else do you think I need to know?

Response:

Thank you for sharing this story with me.

## Self-Assessment of Listening-Interviewing

<p>Collegial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eye contact</li><li>• Minimal interruptions</li><li>• Showing interest</li><li>• Moving forward at a reasonable pace toward completing the objective</li></ul>	What went well?	What do you want to work on?
<p>Posing questions to elicit information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow-up questions</li><li>• Open ended questions (not yes or no, but “tell me more” and “can you describe”)</li><li>• Compassionate/kind responses to details (I am sorry to hear that, you must have been so proud, that is so interesting)</li></ul>	What went well?	What do you want to work on?

## Drafting the Story

Author. They don't tell stories. An author has to think about how he/she wants to begin (dialogue, action, flashback, a description of the setting), how to organize the scenes (beginning to end or end, beginning, middle, end), how to emphasize the theme (maybe with a symbol repeating or inner thoughts), and how to use dialogue to show the emotions and details. Authors do all this and have to capture the real story. 450-600 words

Working title:

Lead (sensory setting description, dialogue, start at the ending, character's background, action)

Beginning-Middle (setting, characters, dialogue, sensory language, conflict or big problem)

Ending (resolve the problem, reflect on the significance of this event to the person, why it has stayed with them, how it's impacted who they are today)



